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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Devote your hearts and souls to seeking the Lord your God."

To the leaders of the nations, to those who were about to help Solomon build one of the wonders of the ancient world, the great temple of Jerusalem, King David addressed these words.

To prepare themselves for the great task they were about to undertake, David exhorted: "Devote your hearts and souls to seeking the Lord, your God."

As Members of Congress, before you undertake your tasks for this Nation, before your discussions which will affect this country and have reactions around the world, before you try to help people of your district with any lasting effect, I plead with you: "Devote your hearts and your souls to seeking the Lord, your God."

Do not presume you know God or the Lord's plan or purpose for you or for this Nation. To seek the Lord is your first task, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests on each side.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this country has a long history of accepting immigrants from all over the world and offering them the potential to pursue a better life. America offers the rights, liberties, and dignity not seen anywhere else in the world.

Now the need for immigration reform has come to the forefront of our country and it is time to remove a carrot that dangles in front of the faces of illegal immigrants. As long as there is the promise of easy illegal employment, immigrants will continue to disregard our laws and penetrate our borders. We must enforce strict laws on employers who use illegal labor in order to discourage illegals coming to America looking for a free ride.

Mr. Speaker, we must do all that is possible to stop illegal immigration, and I remain committed to enacting measures that will effectively solve this problem.

VOTING RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. JEFFERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, today this body will take up reauthorizing critical provisions of the historic Voting Rights Act for another 25 years.

Every year new cases of voter intimidation are reported to the Department of Justice, and every year changes to

voting laws threaten to curtail the power of minority voters. In my home State of Louisiana, the State legislature has faced objections to proposed election law changes every year since this historic bill was signed.

Mr. Speaker, my own mother had to pass a literacy test to vote just a few years before the Voting Rights Act became law, so it has special personal meaning for me. Yet, since its passage, challenges to minority voting rights continue in my home State and across the South.

It has been 41 years since President Johnson signed the original legislation that restored faith in our democracy and gave truth to President Lincoln's demand for a government of the people. After Hurricane Katrina, minorities in Louisiana face new obstacles in exercising our right to vote. The Voting Rights Act is just as relevant today as it was in 1965.

The struggle is not over, and we must not stop now. I urge my colleagues to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act now and in the spirit in which it was intended.

DHS CUTS ANTITERRORISM FUNDS FOR NEW YORK CITY

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to the recent decision by the Department of Homeland Security to cut antiterrorism funds for New York City and Washington by 40 percent, while increasing spending for many smaller cities that are far less prone to terrorist attacks.

This week's revelation by the DHS Inspector General about the serious flaws in the National Asset Database

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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